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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7345  
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
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RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8420  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1795  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Thursday morning papers front-paged the GOJ decision Wednesday to sever trade ties with North Korea.

1. "US and China Should Join Hands to Deal With North Korea's Nuclear Ambitions" An editorial in the liberal Asahi commented (10/12): "It is likely that the UN Security Council (UNSC) will adopt a resolution by the end of this week calling for punitive measures against North Korea, which has announced it conducted a nuclear test. The expected resolution is a manifestation of the anger and protest of the international community. As long as Pyongyang clings to its nuclear ambitions, it remains isolated from the world community, unable to get its tattered economy back on track. The UNSC resolution should bring this home to North Korea. It is noteworthy that China is showing a flexible stance.... Acting in concert to deal with this nuclear crisis is a major achievement for the international community. The solidarity between the US and China will serve as strong pressure on North Korea.... Every measure possible must be taken to avoid the use of force against North Korea and Pyongyang's resort to arms. We propose that China come up with a way to persuade the DPRK to abandon its nuclear ambitions without using force."

SCHIEFFER